

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3295

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SREF UNRWA PLO XF

SUBJ: UNRWA AND PLO

REF: BEIRUT 3245

1. AT SOCIAL GATHERING MAR 13, FRENCH AND BRITISH AMBASSADORS RAISED WITH ME PROBLEM OF POSSIBLE PLO ATTENDANCE AT ADCOM. FRENCH AMBASSADOR, WHO IS ADCOM CHAIRMAN, SUGGESTED WE MEET 1700 LOCAL WEDNESDAY, MAR 19, TO DISCUSS TACTICS FOR ADCOM MEETING.

2. RE SUCH TACTICS, WE RECOMMEND DAPT CALL IN AMBASSADORS OF NON-ARAB ADCOM MEMBER GOVTS, PARTICULARLY FRENCH (BUT ALSO BELGIAN, JAPANESE, TURKISH AND BRITISH), TO URGE THEIR COOPERATION IN HEADING OFF POSSIBLE ADMISSION OF PLO REPS TO ADCOM PROCEEDINGS AT THIS TIME. SHOULD BE PUT TO THEM STRONGLY ON PURELY PRACTICAL GROUNDS-- QUITE APART FROM ANY POLITICAL FEELINGS WE MIGHT HAVE ON THIS SUBJECT--THAT PLO INTRUSION INTO ADCOM PROCEEDINGS AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME WOULD BE LIKELY PRODUCE ADVERSE CONGRESSIONAL REACTION RESULTING IN STOPPAGE OF FURTHER US CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNRWA, WHICH WOULD PLACE AGENCY IN AN IMPOSSIBLE FINANCIAL POSITION. WITH THIS INFORMATION FRENCH CHAIRMAN COULD, IF HE HEARD PLO ISSUE ARISING, TALK TO ARAB ADCOM MEMBERS AND GIVE THEM FACTS OF LIFE.

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3. AT SAME TIME, WE SHOULD MAKE OUR PLANS ON CONTINGENCY THAT PLO ISSUE MAY BE INTRODUCED AT ADCOM MEETING WITHOUT ADVANCE NOTICE. (THERE IS STILL NO EVIDENCE THAT PLO OR ARAB GOVTS INTEND RAISE ATTENDANCE ISSUE.) BEST TACTIC IN THIS EVENT WOULD BE FOR US REP--HOPEFULLY SUPPORTED BY REPS OF GOVTS MENTIONED ABOVE--TO (A) PLEAD LACK OF GUIDANCE AND NEED TO STUDY POSITION OF UN LEGAL COUNSEL ON THIS ISSUE, AND (B) REQUEST ADJOURNMENT OF ADCOM SINE DIE TO ALLOW FOR CONSULTATIONS. TO BE EFFECTIVE, THIS TACTIC WOULD OF COURSE REQUIRE PRIOR COORDINATION WITH FRIENDLY ADCOM MEMBERS.

4. IF ABOVE TACTICS DO NOT SUCCEED IN PREVENTING ADCOM FROM ISSUING INVITATION TO PLO TO PARTICIPATE, WE THINK IT SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT FOR US REP TO RECORD OUR OPPOSITION FORMALLY. (WE CONCUR THAT DISTINCTION SUGGESTED IN ALTERNATIVE B PARA 5 STATE 55001 WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO SUSTAIN, BOTH WITH CONGRESS AND PLO, AND WE BELIEVE EFFORT ON OUR PART TO GAIN ADCOM APPROVAL FOR IT WOULD NOT SUCCEED IN ANY CASE.) WE WOULD HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT US REP WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE INSTRUCTED TO ABSENT HIMSELF FROM MEETING, PARTICULARLY SINCE THERE APPEARS BE NO LEGAL GROUNDS FOR CONTENDING THAT ADCOM NOT EMPOWERED TO INVITE PLO PARTICIPATION. WE FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT ADMISSION OF PLO TO ADCOM PROCEEDINGS WOULD BE EMBARRASSING FOR US AND COULD JEOPARDIZE US FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR UNRWA IN HOUR OF AGENCY'S VITAL NEED, BUT WE SEE LITTLE VIRTUE IN ABANDONING FIELD ENTIRELY IF OUR VIEWPOINT IS NOT SUSTAINED.
GODLEY

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